GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:47
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
AGRARIAN CRISIS
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made on the implementation of the Prime Minister`s package of Rs.17,000 crores for alleviating the agrarian crisis in 31 suicide prone districts of Vidarbha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) whether a task force headed by Shri R. Radhakrishna, Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has submitted its report and has observed many shortcomings on the implementation of this package; and

(c) if so, a summary of the salient observations in the report?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 47 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2007.

(a): Against the approved allocation of Rs. 16978.69 crores, releases amounting to Rs. 10107.60 crores has been made by various implementing agencies upto 31st October, 2007 for implementation of the rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 identified suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

(b)&(c): Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness headed by Prof. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research has observed that the rehabilitation package is comprehensive in terms of coverage and problems addressed but it suffers from following deficiencies in design and implementation:

(i) The design of some of the schemes is not based on the felt needs of households.

(ii) There is a lack of region and household specific flexibility built into these measures.

(iii) There are implementation and monitoring problems due to lack of proper institutional arrangements.

The Expert Group has observed that the implementation and monitoring of relief measures for distressed farmers envisaged in the rehabilitation package needs to be addressed carefully and has recommended that the needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility and further that follow-up steps should be taken to relieve the families from distress. It has also recommended continuation of `Non-Credit Component` of the package for two more years.

The observation of the Expert Group is not fully justifiable because the Government while approving the rehabilitation package also approved a well-designed monitoring and implementation mechanism consisting of state and district level committees, involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and creation of appropriate Institutional Structures and Special Purpose Cooperatives/Community Based Organizations at local level for delivery of the package and optimum utilization of resources in a time bound manner.